

# Blessed and Highly Persecuted

Wisdom  
4:15



M. Love

... the people saw, and  
understood it not... that  
his grace and mercy is  
with his Saints, and...  
unto his chosen.

This, the people saw, and **understood it not**: neither laid they up this in their minds, that his **grace and mercy** is with his **Saints**, and that he hath respect unto his **chosen**.

For they shall see the end of **the wise**, and **shall not understand** what God in his counsel hath decreed of him, and to what end the Lord hath set him in safety.

Wisdom 4:15, 17

**Is your faith worth  
more than your  
stuff?**

**If you were **required**  
to give up all your  
electronics  
(including your cell**

**phone) in order to  
remain with God**

**-OR-**

**reject God so you  
could keep your  
phones, TVs,  
computers,**

**watches, electronic  
instruments,  
console games,  
drones, and the  
like...,**

**What choice  
would you  
make?**

**What would  
you do?**

**Annual reports by  
various  
organizations which  
were created to  
monitor the**

**persecution of  
Believers  
world-wide,  
reported that  
harassment and  
mistreatment of  
Christians has been  
rising globally every**

**year and reaching  
unprecedented  
levels. One such  
organization said,  
“Christians  
throughout the  
world continue to  
risk imprisonment,**



**loss of home and  
assets, torture,  
beheadings, rape,  
and death as a  
result of their faith”.**

**One study from the  
Center for Studies**

**on New Religions  
(CESNUR), which  
found that during  
one recent year,  
approximately  
90,000 Christians  
around the world,  
were killed for their**

**faith.**

**The director of  
CESNUR reported  
that Christians are  
“the most  
persecuted  
religious group in**

**the world.”**

**It was added that  
“Islamic oppression  
remains the most  
common cause of  
pressure against  
Christians and it is**

**rising most sharply  
in Africa, where  
more people are  
killed for their  
Christian faith than  
anywhere else in  
the world.”**

**For years, North  
Korea has topped  
the list as the most  
dangerous place to  
be a Christian,  
followed by  
Somalia,  
Afghanistan,**

**Pakistan, Sudan,  
Syria, Iraq, Iran,  
Yemen, and Eritrea.**

**Pressures faced by  
Christians are  
examined in five  
spheres of life**

**(private, family,  
community,  
national, and  
church).**

**Some time ago, an  
important video was  
posted on a social**



**media site by one of  
the persecution-  
monitoring  
organizations. In it,  
a real-life account  
was given of a  
newly Christian girl  
who was about 10**

**years old. She lived  
in a part of Africa  
where there was,  
and still is, extreme  
persecution against  
saints.**

**The young girl had**

**grown up believing  
in Islam but when  
she went to an  
after-school study  
group and the topic  
turned to religion,  
she heard of the  
love of the savior**

**Yeshua. There and then, she accepted the Messiah deeply within her heart.**

**She firmly committed to Christ though she had been sternly warned**

**against all things  
having to do with  
“those Western  
gods”, as her father  
would often speak  
of Christianity— as  
he understood it. He  
had gone as far as**

**threatening his  
daughter that if she  
had anything to do  
with that belief,  
there would be  
serious  
consequences for  
her life.**

**Even so, having  
heard of a loving,  
forgiving, and  
merciful God whose  
grace had more  
value than her own  
life, she couldn't  
stop herself from**

**rejecting Allah and  
accepting YHWH.  
She knew they were  
not the same.**

**When her father  
learned of her new  
faith, he was so**



**very angry. He was  
outraged! After  
scolding her  
severely, he  
directed her to a  
mat on the floor in  
their tiny home. He  
told her to sit there**

**and not move from  
that mat. He said  
that were she to  
leave the mat, it  
would mean she  
had renounced her  
faith in God and had  
returned to Allah.**

**Though young in  
years and in her  
faith, the girl  
honored her  
father's wishes—  
though cruel as  
they were. She did  
not leave the mat**

**all that day. She did  
not leave the next  
day. She did not use  
the facilities or go  
to get food even the  
next day...or the  
next week even  
when her father left**

**the house.**

**For several weeks,  
the girl sat on that  
mat because, to  
her, leaving it would  
mean her dad would  
think she was**

**leaving her faith in  
God, and that was  
something she  
simply would not  
do.**

**She didn't try to  
sneak and leave**

**when her dad was  
not looking. She  
didn't try to  
rationalize by telling  
herself, "This mat is  
not God. I'll keep  
my faith a secret."  
She didn't try to**

**argue with or plead  
with her Muslim  
parent who was  
clearly anti-  
Christian. She did  
what she felt she  
needed to do to  
honor her heavenly**



**Father more than  
her earthly one. She  
remained on that  
mat so long that her  
legs took on a  
permanent physical  
deformity. She lost  
a lot of weight and**

**she developed other health issues. She was finally found by a neighbor and taken for medical care. The young girl, in the greatest simplicity of faith,**

**truly believed the  
promise was worth  
the persecution.**

**She trusted that  
God would bless her  
for her commitment,  
despite the misery  
she endured.**

**How do you deal  
with persecution  
for your faith?**

**Do you pray for and  
forgive those who  
mock or wrong you?  
Do you operate in**

**faith as you thank  
and praise God for  
the opportunity to  
gain heavenly  
rewards?**

**Do you feel**



**when you're being  
persecuted?**

**Do you recognize  
anti-Christ  
persecution?**

**TOP  
COUNTRIES  
WHERE  
IT IS MOST  
DANGEROUS  
TO FOLLOW  
the Most High:**

**North Korea**  
**Afghanistan**  
**Somalia**  
**Sudan**  
**Pakistan**  
**Eritrea**  
**Libya**  
**Iraq**  
**Yemen**  
**Iran**



**The list changes  
slightly every year  
so that one country  
is at a higher or  
lower position of  
persecuting  
Believers. Even so,  
it's happening and**

**is showing no signs  
of stopping.**

**North Korea was  
ranked #1 for over  
17 consecutive  
years as the most  
dangerous country  
for Christians.**

HOW CAN  
BEING  
PERSECUTED  
BE A  
BLESSING?!

**As it states in  
Wisdom 4, people  
see the  
mistreatment of  
Believers and don't  
understand the  
bigger picture. Even  
the persecuted,  
themselves, don't**

**always fully grasp  
the blessing and the  
ultimate reward of  
the suffering.**

**It's not always clear  
that God's "grace  
and mercy is with  
his saints". Many**

**don't know, "to what  
end the Lord hath  
set him in safety".**

**The Lord has placed  
"his chosen"  
in safety—**

**but it's not obvious.  
"To what end" is not**

**apparent. To what  
degree God goes to  
allow us to suffer  
and learn and exhibit  
total faith while  
building rewards  
that cannot be taken  
or destroyed is not  
readily known.**

# **MORE SCRIPTURE**

**Matthew 5:10-12**

**BLESSED are they  
which are  
PERSECUTED for  
righteousness'  
sake: for theirs is  
the kingdom of**



**heaven.**

**BLESSED are ye,  
when men shall  
revile you, and  
PERSECUTE you,  
and shall say all  
manner of evil  
against you**

**falsely, for my  
sake.**

**REJOICE, and be  
exceeding glad:  
for great is your  
reward in heaven:  
for so  
PERSECUTED**

**they the prophets  
which were before  
you.**

**Luke 6:22, 23**

**BLESSED are ye,  
when men shall  
hate you, and  
when they shall**

**separate you  
from their  
company, and  
shall REPROACH  
you, and cast  
out your  
name as  
evil, for the Son  
of man's sake.**

**REJOICE ye in  
that day, and leap  
for joy: for,  
behold, your  
reward is great in  
heaven: for in the  
like manner did  
their fathers unto  
the prophets.**

## **1 Peter 3:14**

**But and if ye  
SUFFER for  
righteousness'  
sake, HAPPY are  
ye: and be not  
afraid of their  
terror, neither be  
troubled;**

# **1 Corinthians 2:9**

**But as it is  
written, Eye hath  
not seen, nor ear  
heard, neither  
have entered into  
the heart of man,  
the things which  
God hath prepared**

**for them that love  
him.**

**Romans 8:18**

**For I reckon that  
the SUFFERINGS  
of this present  
time are not  
worthy to be**



**compared with  
the glory which  
shall be revealed  
in us.**

**Baruch 5:25**

**My children,  
SUFFER patiently  
the wrath that is**

**come upon you  
from God: for  
thine enemy hath  
PERSECUTED  
thee; but shortly  
thou shalt see his  
destruction, and  
shalt tread upon  
his neck.**

# **1 Peter 4:12-14**

**Beloved, think it  
not strange  
concerning the  
fiery trial which is  
to try you:**

**But rejoice,  
inasmuch as ye**

**are partakers  
of Christ's  
sufferings;  
that, when his  
glory shall be  
revealed,  
ye may be glad  
also with  
exceeding joy.**

**If ye be  
REPROACHED for  
the name of  
Christ, happy are  
ye; for the spirit  
of glory and of  
God resteth upon  
you: on their part  
he is evil spoken**

**of, but on your  
part he is  
glorified.**

**2 Timothy 3:12**

**Yea, and all that  
will live godly in  
Christ Jesus shall  
suffer**

**persecution.**

**2 Corinthians**

**4:8-11**

**We are troubled  
on every side, yet  
not distressed; we  
are perplexed, but  
in despair;**

**PERSECUTED, but  
not forsaken; cast  
down, but not  
destroyed; Always  
bearing about in  
the body the  
dying of the Lord  
Jesus, that the  
life also of Jesus**



**might be made  
manifest in our  
body. For we  
which live are  
always delivered  
unto death for  
Jesus' sake, that  
the life also of  
Jesus might be**

**made manifest in  
our mortal flesh.**

**To be sure, being  
persecuted does  
not FEEL good.  
It can be  
uncomfortable.  
It can hurt. It can  
plainly be horrible.  
The Believer can**

**feel anxiety,  
frustration, and  
sadness along with  
a whole range of  
emotions. Jesus,  
himself, was no  
super-sufferer. He  
felt what he felt—**

**pure and real. Yet,  
he knew certain  
things had to be  
done for other  
things to take  
place. It's similar  
for the Believer.  
As the persecuted,**

**we are, connected  
to the suffering of  
Christ and, as such,  
we are blessed in  
that we will be  
extremely joyful  
when his glory is  
revealed.**

**By surrendering to  
the will of God, we  
may be able to  
experience  
glimpses of  
joyfulness now—not  
by faking, but by  
living by faith.**

**THE JUST SHALL  
LIVE BY FAITH.**

**So then, we are  
blessed though we  
are persecuted.**



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Living By Faith